Heidi does Hillary
Doppelgänger dupes freshman English class

Alyssa Mitchell
Journal Contributor

"No one is to leave their seats once our guest has entered," roars Suffolk student security to a class of unsuspecting freshmen at 8:30am Thursday morning. Surrounded by a group of security and photographers, in walked Hillary Clinton?

Suffolk students fell victim to the performance of actress and impersonator Heidi Dallin, as she made a surprise visit to Suffolk University. As part of a presentation for Professor Thomas Connolly's seminar for freshmen, Dallin appeared as presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton.

Professor Connolly's freshman seminar class entitled, "The Mask behind the Face" focuses on acting, and questions if everyone is actually an actor. The class examines plays by such famous philosophers as Diderot and Socrates as well as the film industry and the modern day celebrity. It was only fitting that an actress visited the class with the intention of forcing students to realize the acting that exists beyond the stage and big screen.

"It is important to have a critical eye wide open," said Connolly. "Students think they know that things aren't what they seem, but all too often they don't. Students are susceptible to cynicism rather than the relying on criticism. In this ironic era the only way to show reality is to disguise it."

"Clinton" was escorted into A40 in the Sawyer building by university police, student security and Suffolk photographers. Before students could figure out if she was really Clinton, Dallin was already shaking hands, posing for pictures and asking students if they were registered to vote. True to the politician stereotype, each photo was strategically positioned to create the image of Clinton connecting with students, for a more "down to earth" side.

Even her speech mimicked Clinton, questioning whether the class believes that people oppose her because she is a woman or because she is ahead in the polls, and she was full of confidence answering her own question by saying, "because I'm ahead!" But not more than fifteen minutes into her speech about presidency and the importance of feminism, "Hillary" ripped off her wig, exposing Dallin.

Dallin, a Gloucester native, has been impersonating Clinton for fifteen years, and is quite convincing. With a natural resemblance to Clinton she does not have to do much in terms of preparation with the exception of a wig, a suit, and the perfect shade of lipstick.

She shared with the class over a dozen stories in which people confused her for Clinton, even some where she was not wearing the wig and instead of Clinton inspired clothing, she was "most likely wearing Betsey Johnson."

One story described an incident in Quincy Market in which a Moroccan worker at a jewelry cart asked her if she was Clinton. When she said no, he asked her if the next time she came back if he could have a picture with her, promising to have a camera with him at all times. About a month later she visited the man, who had her camera all ready. He hung the picture on the back of his cart, but some time later she revisited the cart and found that neither the man nor the picture were there.

Another worker then informed her that the man had taken her picture back to Morocco with him to prove to his family that he had met Clinton. Dallin and Clinton have never met, but Clinton could not pay for better publicity. Always keeping in mind that what she does reflects Clinton, Dallin stays on her best behavior while in the public eye.

And there is no need to ask who Dallin is voting for come November 2008 since, "A win for Hillary is a win for Heidi!"

Profs. mull laptop ban

Rani Smith
Journal Staff

For years laptops have been used in law classrooms for easier access to information, but their misuse is beginning to become an issue in both Suffolk's Law School and undergraduate classrooms as many professors have sought to completely ban their use. While the university continues to remain officially neutral on the subject, some professors are speaking out about the issue, seeking to find a balance between new technology and old school teaching methods.

Last year Suffolk University Law Professor Kate Day joined the likes of other law professors regionally and nationally when she decided to ban the use of laptops from her classrooms, taking effect this January in her Constitutional Law class.

Due to the distractions laptops caused, in addition to forms of harassment women students were subjected to online, Day drew the line to protect students and revive classroom discussion. "I act on behalf of women students without any apologies," she said. Although there can be exceptions made for students for whom this decision poses a problem, Day notes that laptops are not always needed. For example, her Constitutional Law class teaches the basics of the subject, so Day believes neither she nor her students would need a computer.

Though Day acknowledges "there is a real place for them," the problems laptops have caused are reason enough for her to ban them. Day is only one of many professors taking a stance on the issue.

Suffolk Law Professor David Yamada also announced last year that he would no longer allow laptops in his classes, finding that they hinder class discussions, participation and active listening.

"All too often, higher education has allowed itself to become the servant, rather than the master, of technology," said Yamada. "When a certain form of technology poses a problem, a law does not necessarily mean that the laptops are not always needed. For example, her Constitutional Law class teaches the basics of the subject, so Day believes neither she nor her students would need a computer."

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See LAPTOPS, page 4
**NEWS**

**Briefs**

**Woman to be sentenced in death of former Suffolk student**

A woman who pleaded guilty of manslaughter by motor vehicle in the death of a former Suffolk University Student Evangelos Pashos will be sentenced on Dec. 7, sources say.

According to the Metro-West Daily News, Allison Voorhis, forty-eight, of Hopkinton, could face up to forty-five years in prison for her role in the accident. She could also have her licence suspended from anywhere to fifteen years to life.

Voorhis’ attorney, Angelo Cantazaro, did not return several phone calls.

Lisa Pashos, Pashos’ mother, said of Voorhis “I hope she gets the maximum sentence.”

**POLICE BLOTTER HIGHLIGHTS**

**Thursday 11/29**

Report of confiscation of a knife at 150 Tremont St. Report filed. 17:22

Received a report of cups of water being thrown out of the window at 150 Tremont St., 8th floor. Unit 31 responded. Report filed. 18:05

Law School-Report of a male individual urinating outside of 120 Tremont St. Units 44, 41, 31 responded/trespassing warning was issued. Report filed. 19:45

10 Somerset-Received an assault and battery report (no weapon involved). Units 44, 41, 31 responded. Report filed. 22:35

**Friday 11/30**

10 Somerset-Received an elevator entrapment report. Unit 20 responded. Report filed. 13:08

10 Somerset-Received an elevator entrapment report. Unit 20 responded. Report filed. 13:56

RA called from 150 Tremont St. and reported suspicious incense on the 7th floor. Unit 71 dispatched. Unit 71 reports nobody in room and nothing found. 21:59

**Saturday 12-1**

RA at 150 Tremont St. called stating there was a party on the 6th floor. Units 73, 74 responding. 00:43

**Sunday 12-2**

10 Somerset-Responded to the 15th floor for a male individual that was urinating in front of a residential door. 2:13

Report of an individual who fell outside of 150 Tremont St. due to the weather conditions and refused medical attention. Facility was notified. Report filed. 18:05

**Resources available for frazzled students**

**Elizabeth Lane**

**Journal Staff**

The fall semester is rapidly coming to a close as classes are set to end this week and final exams are approaching. For many college students, this time is characterized by study sessions, presentations, and the occasional all-night cram sessions.

Suffolk offers various events and tips to help ease the stress some students may feel during this time. Last week, Health Services recently held an event in the Donahue Lobby where students made their own anti-stress kits. Many students attended the event, according to Liz Drexler-Hines, Health Educator within Health Services.

"There is also information in the Health Services lobby on things like test anxiety," Drexler-Hines said. In addition to information offered to students, Health Services "absolutely sees an increase of students during finals time for stress-related issues," said Drexler-Hines.

Drexler-Hines said students come in with various physical symptoms relating back to stress and one of the first things clinicians ask students is how they are dealing with studying.

The Counseling Center also recognizes finals week as a stressful time for students. Dr. Wilma Busse, Associate Professor in the Psychology Department and Director of Training for Pre-Doctorate Internship Programs, works in the Counseling Center and said that the center tends to see an increase of students at the end of the semester. The Counseling Center accommodates that expectation increase by adding extra appointments with counselors. Dr. Busse also pointed out that the Counseling Center offers events during the semester as well to help students deal with the added pressure of finals, such as workshops like "Helping Distressed Students in Residence" and "Identifying and Helping Students and Colleagues in Distress." There are ongoing anxiety and depression groups that teach students how to cope with stress," she said.

Dr. Busse offered suggestions to help students who may be feeling overwhelmed. "Students should have conversations with themselves and look at how they’re trying to cope with stress," she said. She also suggested students go to the Counseling Center and speak with a counselor if they are feeling overwhelmed.

Students can also evaluate themselves and acknowledge any signs of stress they may be experiencing. "The physical signs of stress include headaches, clenching of the teeth, and missed periods for girls," said Dr. Busse. She also noted behavioral signs of stress which include eating an increased amount of junk food, short-temperedness, and sudden bursts of laughing or crying. Stress can also interfere with remembering recent information and misunderstanding information being delivered to them. "That’s not something you want to happen when you’re trying to study," Dr. Busse noted. "Fatigue can inhibit remembering," she added. "You’re also more likely to get into arguments."

Fortunately, all these negative impacts of stress can be lessen or prevented by following several steps. Adequate sleep, healthy eating and exercise can all alleviate stress students experience, according to Dr. Busse.

Students living on-campus are offered various events in the residence halls during finals. According to Amanda McKenna, Assistant Director of Residence Life and Summer Programs at 150 Tremont, quiet hours in both residence halls begin Thursday and last until the dorms close for winter break.

"We hope [the quiet hours] provide a more studious environment," she said. McKenna also said resident assistants coordinate holiday-based events for students. "Students can take a break from studying," she said, referring to the events. "We find students tend to go to any study breaks when food is offered."

According to Dr. Busse one of the most important things to remember during increasingly stressful times is to recognize the stresses around you and get help if needed. "Ask for help before you reach the crisis level," said Busse. "But also remember to reward yourself for small accomplished tasks."

"Also remember to reward yourself for small accomplished tasks."

**Dr. Wilma Busse**

**Associate Professor, Psychology Department**

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**Q:** What are your thoughts on the new campus wide wireless network?

"I use it rarely. When I do it seems to work." - Jane Noble 2010 Global Business/Accounting

"I like it. Takes a while to connect sometimes though." - Randy Thay 2009 Marketing

"My laptop can’t log on." - Chris Klev 2009 Business

"It’s really difficult to connect most of the time, but once you’re on it’s good." - Jenn Losco 2011 Theatre

"It works just fine for me." - Nidsey DiManche 2011 Biology

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Office of Retention Services

The Office of Retention Services serves as a student advocacy and referral program—Offering information about services provided by Suffolk, important dates and deadlines.

AIDS Rememberance Day dispells myths

Lauren Gondert
Journal Staff

Only men, women and children get AIDS. This all-inclusive statement, that takes a jab at all stereotypes concerning the disease, was the topic of a lecture given by Cathy Robinson Pickett on Nov. 29, in the C. Walsh Theatre. Pickett, a motivational speaker and AIDS activist from Lakeland, Fla., explained exactly what this state­ment meant to her. Back-dropped with AIDS activist from Lakeland, Fla., Pickett gave statistics about the AIDS remembrance quilt, related with AIDS. “No other country in the world classifies or defines sexual fluid.” Pickett explained, “Sex sells everything in our country yet the idea of talking about it is horrid.”

“Not other country in the world classifies or defines safe sex as “anything that doesn’t exchange sexual fluid.” Ironically, she explained, “Sex sells everything in our country yet the idea of talking about it is horrid.”

“Non-profit organization "Friends-Together" started HIV/AIDS awareness. “Our awareness of the disease in the '80s was nothing, in the '90s it is difficult to stop the spread of AIDS. "It takes [30 minutes] from the time you are infected until the time when you can pass the disease to others," Pickett explained. However, Pickett added that people do not get sick from AIDS for another 10 to 12 years after they contract it. This means "you have 10 to 12 years to infect more people," she said.

In the end, Pickett wanted everyone in the audience to learn at least three new things about AIDS. “This is my life 24/7, 365 days a year, and I learn something new every week,” she said. Pickett called upon the audience to do whatever they can, because there is still so much to learn. “Our awareness of the disease in the '80s was nothing, in the '90s was high, and today [the disease] is considered manageable. Pickett explained, "I take 100 pills a day. I don't consider that manageable."
LAPTOPS from page 1
reduces genuine engagement and attention levels, then it's not serving us well." As a result of his decision to ban laptops, Yamada reports that he has not only seen improved depth of class discussion, but his overall class evaluations have been positive as students continue to take the class in spite of his decision.

Because many professors still haven't reached the point where they must ban laptops altogether, they are leaving the decision to use a laptop in class up to the students. "I think we have to treat students as adults, especially in light of the tuition they pay," said Suffolk Law Professor Steven Callahan. "If they are using pen and paper we can't realistically stop them from doodling. I feel the same way about laptops."

Suffolk Law Professor Carter Bishop says that he allows laptops in his class, but that the online law school experience can be very constructive," he said. "I think it is wonderful teaching in an online environment."

Although Rustad has witnessed students using laptops in her class, as a positive resource for his students. "I think that the online law school experience can be very constructive," he said. "I think it is wonderful teaching in an online environment."

Professor Michael Rustad, Co-Director of the Intellectual Property Concentration at Suffolk Law, views the use of laptops in the classroom as a positive resource for his students. "I think that the online law school experience can be very constructive," he said. "I think it is wonderful teaching in an online environment."

Although Rustad has witnessed students playing solitaire, checking unrelated email, viewing houses, and even gambling, the benefits of having an online classroom are worth any misuse that does go on, according to Rustad. "I encourage students to bring and use their laptops and even to go to websites," he said.

Donna Giancola, an associate professor in Philosophy and the Director of the Religious Studies Program at the College of Arts and Sciences, has seen few students using laptops in her class, but is not opposed to them doing so. "I do not know why more students do not use them in class," said Giancola. "We should be encouraging our students to do this more often."

Communication professor Bruce Wickelgren has contemplated the issue of allowing laptops in class with colleagues and has had mixed experiences in his classes. "There have been students who seem to use them to take notes, and this is beneficial in my view," said Wickelgren. "I have, however, seen poor uses of it. I've experienced problems with students doing things not specific to the course."

Wickelgren not only saw the distractions laptops created in class, but also the psychological deterrents they can create, finding the size of the laptop allows students to hide behind it, ultimately hindering their role in the classroom. "Since communication is vital to understanding communication, a student who finds a way to hide impedes her/his participation in class," said Wickelgren. "I run a classroom that is based on a participative lecture style. The laptop makes it easier for a student to not participate."

The benefits and drawbacks of laptops remain clear, but the question about whether the pros outweigh the cons continues to puzzle professors as they struggle to find the best suitable medium for their students. "Like any innovation, if used well, laptops can enhance; but it also can detract. I guess like anything new," said Wickelgren, "and as an instructor, it's my job to figure out how to maximize the positive, and minimize the distraction."

College Students Get 15% OFF full-price items.
College Students Get 15% OFF full-price items.
Christmas Conflict from the frontlines of the... Seinfeld War?

Yes, Virginia, there is a war on Christmas. Christmas has been declared politically incorrect and the situation is much worse than you realize.” So claims professional fear-monger and Fox News commentator John Gibson in his 2005 book The War on Christmas.

The bellecose nature of the holiday season has taken center stage in the post-Thanksgiving weeks over the past few years, and it appears that history is set on repeat. I had hoped we would be able to avoid the so-called "liberal war," but just a few weeks ago, the American Family Association offered the first salvo, attacking Peetman for not using "Christmas" as part of its holiday promotions – the error was soon corrected. The AFA's website has also launched an offensive against Kohl's, Banana Republic and The Gap for their Christmas-bashing agendas.

In the next few weeks, Bill O'Reilly will most likely turn Christmas warrior – a modern-day crusader for the Holy Land of America's hearts and minds – and point the American right to the nearest exit in stores that offer up a "happy holidays." I figure that in this "Thirty Years' War of Christmas," the best defense is a good offense, and it would be more effective to start digging in early for a lengthy bit of trench warfare -- a preemptive strike, so to speak.

My issue is not so much that some retailers bow to the Christian right and avoid the politically correct "happy holidays" safety net. I believe that private industry should be able to make its own decisions on whatever holiday greeting it prefers -- shops and companies will suffer the consequences of Muslim or Jewish boycotts if those groups find "Merry Christmas" a point of offense. No, my issue is that saying "Merry Christmas" has even become an issue. However, that I take offense to the Christian right's use of Bushist tactics: If you're not with us, you're against us. In their minds, those who don't support Christmas outright are trying to destroy the Christian faith. This is logically false, and belies any potentially valid claims of the "de-Christianizing" of America. Us versus them is no way to win a war. Of all the societal and cultural casualties I can dream up for the ultra-religious folks of the United States, the "Christmas controversy" seems the most trivial. Perhaps a better front could be found in fighting America's dwindling church attendance, the increased rates of drug abuse and teen pregnan- cy or the overt commercialization of Christmas season itself -- isn't it odd that the battle-ground for this "war" over the birth of Christ is being fought in The Gap and other fine mid-priced clothing retailers.

All these are much worthier, if soropic, causes: They certainly can't offer the sexy palms or cachet of a Holy Greetings War. But then again, nothing galva- nizes the American populace more than a good old-fashioned war about nothing -- perhaps we should call this the Seinfeld War?

It is true that America is around 80 percent Christian, and this major- ity is going to have the preponderance to impose its will on those stores that rely on holiday-season cash. But in a society that values "freedom of religion" and pluralistic principles, a majority opinion should not always be correct. In most soci­ eties, minority rights must be recognized and given certain credence – saying "Happy Holidays" is perhaps a correct recognition that not everyone com­ consumer or citizen is a Christian. But are we getting too much like J.S. Mills (the 19th century philosopher who supported individual liberty) on an argument that real­ ly deserves less attention than it gets? In short, are we taking this controvers­ y too far and taking it seriously? Absolutely. Conservatives decry a loss of traditional values in the waning of Christmas-related greet­ ings, hence their crusade. Yet it appears that they get convenient amen­ nities about the true traditional meaning of Christmas, mostly derived from Germanic pagan rituals... anyone know what a Christmas tree was origi­ nally intended to sym­ bolize? They also fail to recognize that Christmas is not about winning a battle over a greeting, but honoring a sacred reli­ gious figure. So who has truly lost their traditional values?

I do have to side with them, however, over the holiday-ing of certain non-secular items. While most public entities, schools and government should refrain from out­ right religious innuendo, it is more than fine to forge political correct­ ness and call a "Holiday Tree" by its proper nomenclature. I would hate to think our society is so litigious as to rise up in arms over some­ thing so innocuous.

I am very concerned, however, about the escala­tion of this "war" to new and terrifying tact­ ics, Geneva Convention be damned. Soon, the Jewish lobby may retali­ ate and force Murray's Deli to wish everyone a "Happy Hannukkah," which would only result in explosive reactions from the Christian van­ guard. In the end, we will have a White Christmas Nuclear Holocaust -- the complete destruction of all holiday greetings. Only cockroaches, Twinkies and "Happy Flag Day" would survive.

Yet as the child of a mixed religion marriage, I am most terrified by the prospect of choosing sides in this on-going conflict: my own greet­ ings civil war. So forgive me if during this holiday season I take hold of my Heidelbergen from my Swiss Miss hot cocoa and wish you "A good day."
Wizzard of Oz inspired art at NESAD

Eleanor Kaufman
Journal Contributor

The "Ozspirations" exhibit at the New England School of Art and Design (NESAD) gallery is a collection of work from artists ranging from Boston to Istanbul. The exhibit, which stands from November 16 - December 21, is a compilation of pieces celebrating the 100th year anniversary of Frank Baum's series of novels. It is truly an eclectic mixture of work, featuring a variety of different mediums. A pair of red sparkly heels greets the viewer as they enter the doors, as well as an array of colorful paintings, and drawings hung on the walls and placed around the room.

Other kinds of work in this exhibit are sculpture and original videos. The identity and feel of this exhibit is fun and whimsical. The exhibit, organized by James Manning and Jen Fuchel, both faculty at the NESAD, explores the meaning of life through the inspiration of L. Frank Baum. Each of the thirty artists, whose work is showcased, offers a unique interpretation of the ideas behind The Wizard of Oz and offers of Baum's work.

The driving idea behind Ozspirations is about the war of a world we are living in, and the artwork suggest how we may discover peace through finding our own way home, per say. Fuchel comments about the show, "...we are all trying so hard to find the heart, courage, and intelligence to confront the 'wicked witches' and 'flying monkeys' of our world in turmoil and make our way safely home - even though that home may no longer feel as secure as it used to," said Fuchel.

Fuchel suggests that the idea of home is so important to pay attention to, especially amongst turmoil and negativity. She says, "People have been so swept up in the whirlwind of tragic events unleashed by Sep 11" Perhaps we forget to feel comfortable in our home. She thinks that the Oz centennial shouldn't pass us by, for the story is important to remember more than ever right now.

The Wizard of Oz is a classic story of journeying to find happiness. Instead of dwelling on our fears, it is necessary to remind ourselves of the bliss of being home, and the happiness that comes from looking past the villains of our lives.

Once we can find happiness in our 'homes' we are more equipped to confront our demons.

In the Ozspirations exhibit, thirty artists from all over the world bring together their ideas about home, and the pursuit of happiness. They honor Mr. Baum's work and together, they celebrate one of the most classic collections of literature ever created.

The exhibit, which will be in the NESAD gallery until Dec 21 is worth checking out. The different interpretations and artistic representations are interesting to compare and contrast.

Check out the exhibit and join to celebrate Mr. Frank Baum's contributions to our lives and our world through art.

Suffolks' Rammifications are on top of things

Lea Rossignol
Journal Contributor

With an assortment of awards under their belt the Suffolk University Rammifications have their busiest season ahead of them. The "Rams", as they are affectionately called around campus, performed at the Performing Arts Office showcase on November 29th at the C. Walsh Theater, and have many other performances coming up in the next couple of weeks.

Audrey Mardavich, a senior, is in her fourth year as a Ramification and is one of the two assistant music directors of the group along with Deirdre McAllister who is a sophomore at Suffolk. The explained that the Ramifications have recently been focusing on redeveloping the group, building repertoire, getting more gigs, and arranging new songs.

Ramification performances not only include talented vocal arrangements but energy from the group that is displayed by finger snapping, toe tapping, rhythmic hand movements, and knee bobbing.

Mardavich says the group has come so far from her freshman year now with accomplishments like second runner up at the ICCA New England finals, and two CARA awards for best mixed collegiate album for Voices in the Attic and Best Mixed Collegiate song for Goodnight and Go.

Their first album, Voices in the Attic, was released in 2006 and currently the Ramifications have been in the recording studio this summer getting ready to put out their second album or an earlier released EP with the songs they recorded this summer.

Getting invitations to competitions and the opportunity to perform with the Beezleba'uh, Tufts University's all male Acapella group, on December 7th the Ramifications are on the up and up.

Kayla Hopkins, a freshman, is a new comer this year to the Rams. Hopkins is honored to be a part of such a talented group and enjoys the experience of traveling and the friendships she has made since joining the Rams.

McAllister agrees explaining that the Ramifications practices are fun because everyone gets along so well, "We work hard but we have fun too," she says.

There are so many different levels to a Ramifications performance; Acapella groups take on the challenge of making abnormal sounds that would naturally come from a bass, drums, guitar, and other musical instruments, with only their vocal chords.

The Holiday Showcase was the beginning of the Ramification's busy holiday season.

The Acapella group takes on several different performances as well as caroling in the downtown crossing area in the next couple of weeks.

Current group members include Bryan Daley, Rachel Greenburg, Kayla Hopkins, Audrey Mardavich, Jeff Morris, David Vadala, Kaitlyn Flynn, Kevin Hadfield, Nicole Lee, Deirdre McAllister, Benjamin Treadwell, and Brittany Wynne.

www.suffolkrams.com

Check out the Rams on Emerson's WERS (88.9 FM) Saturday and Sunday from 2 pm and 5 pm.
The Killers new album is not so killer

Mary Stevens  
Journal Contributor

In their second album release little over a year, The Killers new album Sawdust (Island 2007) is surprisingly good as it is confusing. Sawdust is a compilation of new music, covers, and songs remixed or unreleased from their first two albums Hot Fuss (Island 2004) and Sam's Town (Island 2006).

While the overall album feels slightly hectic at times, without a real sense of genre or mood, the songs individually showcase The Killers growth as a band. Where Sam's Town was a coming of age album for lead singer Brandon Flowers, Sawdust is an album where the band collectively evolves its sound.

Undoubtedly, the most memorable songs on this album are actually covers of Joy Division's "Shadowplay," and The First Editions song "Ruby Don't Take Your Love to Town."

Even though the cover of "Shadowplay" is largely different from the original because of its club like sound, Brandon Flowers does an excellent job of capturing Ian Curtis's style of singing an unusual sound for the band, better described as country than rock. The lyrics revolve around a man whose back from war and struggling to keep his love Ruby around because his legs are paralyzed. While this might sound like the premise for a typical country western song, it actually comes across as something sad and funny. Other outstanding songs of this album include "Leave the Bourbon on The Shelf" and "Romeo and Juliet."

Despite the good intentions of the album, there were a few inevitable duds in the form of remixes.

By far the most disappointing was the ill thought out remix of their hit single "Mr. Brightside."

All in all it ends up sounding like a galactic wedding march, a horrifically painful wedding march that's nearly 9 minutes long.

The others just sound tired and lack imagination. There are times when the original songs need to just be left alone.

If you're a fan of The Killers, and not particularly attached to any one type of genre, then you'll enjoy Sawdust.

Even at the points where you're shaking your head and asking yourself why the heck did they do that, you'll be able to appreciate the risks the band is taking. It's a great addition to your music collection.

www.thekillersmusic.com

I Am Legend

Starring the fresh prince Will Smith “I am Legend,” who plays a brilliant scientist could not contain a terrible virus that got loose. Will Smith is the last survivor in what used to be New York, but he is actually surrounded by the infected.

Released in theatres Dec 14.

Staff Picks

What does the staff want for Christmas?

Kristin Morrell  
Arts Editor

The movie Bonnie and Clyde.

Janssen McCormick  
Editor in Chief

A man servent so he can carry things around on a silver platter; that'd be rad.

Tim Rosenthal  
Sports Editor

Family Guy vol. 5

Tara Lachapelle  
Assistant News Editor

Porcelain jewelry box from Tiffanys.

Ben Paulin  
Assistant Sports Editor

My two front teeth.
Voltron needs repairs

Janssen McCormick
Journal Staff

Bobby Digital isn't rolling with Shaggy or scaling rock faces in the Alps just yet, but he sure has developed an affinity for the electric guitar, much to the disappointment of two of the Wu's finest and most successful MCs. 8 Diagrams isn't new and it isn't rap and it's still one of the greatest albums of recent memory, but from the band production and horrible pacing it's easy to see why Rae and Ghost distanced themselves from RZA and his beats.

"Camping" takes things off by wasting 1:22 of its 3:39 time on the standard RZA brag film sample, followed up by an excerpt from The Persuasions' "OOPA-DOO WOOG" which introduces the sample used throughout the plodding track. The production steadily improves over the next four cuts, although on these tracks it seems Method Man can no longer hold his own alongside the rest of the Clan. However, his sudden turnaround on the album's second half (that half's only bright spot) to much of the Met's could have been the recurring theme of the album as it appears on 10 of 16 Diagrams' 16 tracks.

Other members are criminally underrepresented with the clan's three best MCs, Raekwon, GZA and Ghostface appearing on a mere 8, 6 and 4 of the album's tracks, while U-God (who's always been a weak link in the Wu-Tang Clan) somehow stirs itself onto 6 tracks. And you'd best believe feat U-Gods 6 seem like fer more than GZA's. Ghostface is the only member of the Clan with any recent success, and by pushing 8 Diagrams back a week so as not to compete with Ghost's The Big Doe Rehab RZA recognizes his sidekick's continued success versus the Clan's decline. So why not give the Ironman some more time on the record? It'd be the hell out of another Copalotan verse or the abysmal "Sunlight."

Criticism of clan representation is it's rather pathetic that the best track on 8 Diagrams is 13 years old. Called from circa '96 Chambers tape 16th Chamber O.D.B. Special" closes out the album with a reminder of the clan's former glory. When ODB introduces himself as the one man band on "16th Chamber" it perfectly sums up what Ason’s Unique meant to the Wu, as he follows that declaration with a posthumous verse with more energy than the rest of 8 Diagrams. Building the best track on his album around rehashed 13 year old verses isn't what RZA's defense as "branching out" and becoming more diverse, it's indicative of a bad album.

Which brings us to the best example of RZA's "experimentation" the George Harrison interpolation, "The Heart Gently Whispers", where Raekwon, Ghostface, and even Method Man deliver some classic narrative verses only to have their efforts soured by RZA's hand. The track makes the end of 8 Diagrams' relatively enjoyable first half, showing things down with a plodding beat and Erykah Badu's sorry rhythm and bullshit hook. The track's other guest, John Frusciante of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, adds another chapter to the long running love affair between some of hip-hop's greatest artists and rock's least interesting commercial acts (see Jay-Z & Linkin Park, Kanye West & Chris Martin/Maroon 5). Watching someone who revolutionized hip-hop production and has consistently put out excellent albums "diversify" in this way feels like Stanley Kubrick waking up one morning and deciding that Full Metal Jacket would be better if he had let Michael Bay co-direct. Come on RZA, who's your Adir?

Standout Tracks: 16th Chamber O.D.B. Special, Life Changes, Rushing Elephants, Watch ya mouth (which isn't even on the damn album)

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Ghostface a dish best served solo

Janssen McCormick
Journal Staff

If you’re a hip hop veteran you better watch your rear end, your jewels and your woman. Tony Starks and his Wu-Ghostface Family are back, staking his claim to rap a throne and marking anyone in his way. Within the first minute of The Big Doe Rehab Ironman Starks throws the Wonder Woman quarterback down on some real "nice and boring motherfuckers" delivering the swagger of 8 Diagrams (SRC/Motown, Universal, 2007) scarily lacks. From there it's a purple haze of stick ups, drug deals, million dollar parties, sex and gunfights all with Ghost's trademark soul samples and bass heavy production. Pumping The Big Doe on your headphones or in your car you feel like Jimmy Conway, invincible, taking what you want and whacking anyone who complains twice. This music is too Luchianos to. Compared to the leadoff track 8 Diagrams it's amazing that none of Big Doe's tracks made their way onto that album, tracks such as "We Celebrate" and "Rico-Room: Therapy" would have made excellent comeback singles from the Wu's six year hiatus.

Some reviews criticized The Big Doe Rehab for feeling more like a mixtape than an actual album, presumably because of the small gap between the album's announcement in October and its December 4 release. Such criticism gains further evidence based on the fact that Big Doe comes less than a year after the release of Ghost's last album, More Fish (Def Jam, 2006).

For lesser rappers such a quick turnaround might be a problem (have you heard Weezy's garagey verse on "100 Million Dollars"?) but Ghost always comes across as the type with stockpiles of notebooks filled with unused lines. It also helps that long time collaborators Lex Diamond and Method Man deliver great verses all over Big Doe. Ronnie Sileo puts in some stellar work on "Tony Sigda aka Barrett Brothers" he's the type of outside artist who can provide a creative spark and keep things lively but usually doesn't appear on hemetically sealed Wu-Tang records. While Ghost's seed San God provis a more than capable MC on his two appearances, anyone near the level of his father mind you, but promising regardless. Although it is unfortunate that Ghost didn't feel the urge to banally proclaim "San God" came out my neck" as he was prone to doing in live appearances last year.

Depending on who you ask Ghost already has three or four classic albums with his "latched" efforts still better than 95% of other artists' discographies and worthy of DX's or four mixes in rating systems across the unified states. Ironman simply cannot fail, he's been consistently better over his past four albums than Jay and Nas have been in that time span, and it's about time his name started coming up in G.O.A.T. discussions.

Hip-hop album of the year? Without a doubt.
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

Get out your witch hats and magic wands for the fifth installment of Harry Potter. Watch these characters go through the struggles against the Dark Art teacher and watch her bring her frightful discipline to Hogwarts.

Released in theatres on Dec 11.

SU's Winter Concert gets Bent

Stephanie DiBetitto
Journal Contributor

This year's Suffolk University Winter Concert was presented by the Performing Arts Office and took place on Thursday Nov. 29 in the C. Walsh Theatre.

The show was hosted by Mitch Manning and Julia Gustafson from Seriously Bent; both were really funny and kept the audience on their toes. The Ramifications, an a cappella singing group, opened with "Ready to Go" and "Joy To The World." The songs were energizing and a great start to a delightful holiday show. The group is led by Mr. Ian Koff.

They were followed by the Dance Company, performing "Hot Stuff." The dance was good and a fun start leading into the rest of the dance pieces, one of the strongest of all the dances of the night. Dance Company is directed by Ms. Jennifer Farrell.

Next, The Vocal Ensemble sang "O Happy Day" led by Dr. Duncan Vinson with accompanist Ms. Xi Sha. The Vocal Ensemble was followed by the Dance Company's tap piece to the song "Summer of 69."

They were followed by the Jazz Ensemble's beautifully performed songs labeled "Mounin" and "Old Country." After, The Ramifications sang a three piece medley of "Uptight Everything is Alright," "Let it Snow" and "Never There."

Seriously Bent, an improv comedy group followed with a piece which went over well with the crowd. Their humor lightened the mood when asking the audience suggestions for the worst holiday gifts and their impromptu stemmed from there. This funny bunch is directed under Mr. Jeremy Brothers and Mr. Mike Anastasia.

Up again was the Vocal Ensemble, presenting "Pie mon si trovano." The Dance Company went after with their third dance of the night, "I've Been Waiting."

The Ramifications went for their third and last time singing "Carol of the Bells" and "Unwritten." There overall performance was very well prepared and entertaining.

The Dance Company came on again to do a dance to "Seven Nation Army."

The Jazz Ensemble went for their last time performing "Winter Wonderland" and "Chameleon." The very last act of the night was presented by the Dance Company's senior soloist performing "Blue Moon" followed by the group dance to "Misguided Angel." The night was a nice gateway into the Christmas holiday. The performers were prepared and jolly spirited, leaving the audience with a sense a cheer.

Happy Holidays

From the

Suffolk Journal
ARTS wrap 2007

music

movies
Ben Paulin's Top five movies of the year

1. Superbad
2. American Gangster
3. Zodiac
4. Heartbreak Kid
5. Knocked Up

Knocked Up - "Knocked Up" is a very funny movie that shows the lighter side to unexpected pregnancy. Judd Appatow created another gem adding to his repertoire of hilarious films including "40 Year Old Virgin" and "Superbad". The only thing unbelievable about the film is how the hot blonde girl finds herself even talking to the fat guy because everyone knows that personality doesn't mean shit if you are a fat ass.

John Forrester's Top five YouTube videos of the year

1. "No Direction, Period" (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSf5q3wrgnk)
   This parody of Martin Scorsese's documentary "No Direction Home: Bob Dylan" poses the question, what if Bob Dylan wrote every hit song in the universe...every one. Hearing the surprisingly good faux 'Tambourine Man' sing songs such as Britney Spears' "Toxic," Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back," and Little John's "Get Low" is a thought-provoking and even enlightening experience. Also the scene where Dylan reveals that he wrote a song about Joan Baez's "lovely lady lump" is pretty funny.

2. "James Brown Drunk" (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tfNhL_R_rl)

3. "D.A.N.C.E." by Justice (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fo_QVq2IGMs)

4. "Everybody's Got The Clap" by Stare the Infant (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Gh688pcSHw)

5. "C-C (You Set The Fire In Me)" by Tom Vek (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Nx1ocgnd4A)

Knocked Up - "Knocked Up" is a very funny movie that shows the lighter side to unexpected pregnancy. Judd Appatow created another gem adding to his repertoire of hilarious films including "40 Year Old Virgin" and "Superbad". The only thing unbelievable about the film is how the hot blonde girl finds herself even talking to the fat guy because everyone knows that personality doesn't mean shit if you are a fat ass.

Killed: "Killed: is a very funny movie that shows the lighter side to unexpected pregnancy. Judd Appatow created another gem adding to his repertoire of hilarious films including "40 Year Old Virgin" and "Superbad". The only thing unbelievable about the film is how the hot blonde girl finds herself even talking to the fat guy because everyone knows that personality doesn't mean shit if you are a fat ass.

Janssen McCormick's Top ten Albums from 2007

1. Watain-Sivorn to the Dark
2. Ghostface-The Big Doe Rehab
3. Wolves in the Throne Room-Two Hunters
4. Lil' Wayne-Da Drought 3
5. Arkhangel-Sva-Gloria Satanae
6. Marduk-Ro/77 5:12
7. Peste Noire-Lorraine Rehearsal
8. Sexcrement-Genitalies from the Porno Potty
9. Deathspell Omega-Fas Ite Maledicti, In Ignem Aeternum
10. Guitar Wolf-Dead Rock

Colleen Koperek's Top five Concerts

1. Beastie Boys Gala Event
2. Battles
3. You Need New Glasses
4. Do Make Say Think
5. Thief Thief

The Beastie Boys Gala Event was the classiest event I attended this year, or probably ever will. The show, which was at the Boston Opera House, was on AD Rock's birthday, and the crew serenaded him with a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" before they launched into "Sabotage." Because it was a Gala Event, Boston showed up all decked out in their most fly finery.
Stop by Health Services today for an event you can’t afford to miss. Suffolk’s own Diversity Services is offering students free HIV testing from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are doing so in conjunction with the Sidney Borum Jr. Health Center. This is an excellent opportunity to get tested since it is administered by a certified clinician, minimally invasive using oral screening, and is fairly short, lasting less than half an hour. To retrieve results, students are given an anonymous barcode which they can use to obtain their results in a few weeks time. For more information and to sign up to get tested stop by Diversity Services in Archer 481. You can also contact Diversity Services by emailing them at diversity@suffolk.edu, or calling them at 617-573-8613.

Looking for a way to escape the madness of finals week without sacrificing your educational integrity? Look no further than the Museum of Fine Arts. In celebration of the holiday season, the MFA is offering a number of interesting events to get you into the holiday spirit. Take a stroll in the museum’s ensemble live, performing classical holiday music at the Seaport Hotel (One Seaport Lane). Don’t miss the chance to hang out with friends and have a good time before finals and winter break. This event is semi-formal and cocktails begin at 7 p.m. There will be a cash bar with valid i.d. Tickets are $20 and going fast, so get them at the HUB today! For more information contact Program Council at pc@suffolk.edu.

If dances and holiday parties aren’t your cup of tea, head over to the Orpheum Theater (1 Hamilton PL, Boston, MA) tonight and hear Cake in concert as part of their Unlimited Sunshine tour. This Indie band is sure to be a hit. Check out the band at http://www.cakemusic.com. To purchase tickets log on to ticketmaster.com. The show begins at 7:30p.m.

The first annual celebration of Boston’s underground art scene takes place today at the UMass Boston Campus Center (100 Morrissey Blvd. - Boston, MA 02125-3395) from 1-8 p.m. This festival offers an outlet to artists who are outside the “mainstream”. Come see the best visual, literary, and performing arts the city has to offer! Admission is $10. For more information visit http://www.bostonurbanartsfestival.com.

Are you a chocolate lover? Was that a rhetorical question? Come to LeMercidien’s Chocolate Bar this Saturday and pay $35 for an unlimited chocolate buffet! Pastry chef Alejandro Luna will be on hand to prepare over 125 different chocolate desserts, and there will also be hot chocolate bunuelos, a dunk-your-own chocolate fountain, and chocolate and orange creme brulees. For reservations, call Cafe Puri at 617-868-9751 or visit http://www.lemercidienboston.com.

Want to experience different cultures? Attend the Cultural Survival Bazaar today at the Hynes Convention Center (900 Boylston St). The event includes performances, music, art, and food of many diverse and indigenous cultures from around the world. Over 100 different vendors will be selling traditional crafts, artwork, clothing, jewelry, baskets, and accessories as well. All proceeds go directly to helping the Cultural Survival Organization. The event is free and begins at 11:00 a.m. Visit http://www.culturalsurvival.org/events/bazaar/hynes@cfm or contact Agnes Portalewka at 617-441-5417 for more info.

Today is the first day of exams. If you are struggling with study stress, you are not alone! Help is available at the Counseling Center. They are located on the 5th floor of 73 Tremont St. Their phone number is 617-573-8226. The Counseling Center is open Monday-Friday 9a.m.-4:30p.m.

Spread the cheer and check out the opening night of the Boston Pops’ holiday concert at Symphony Hall (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA). This annual Christmas tradition is sure to be a hit with everyone young and old. The show begins at 8 p.m. and tickets range from $26-$86. For more information and to purchase tickets, log on to http://www.bostonpops.org.

Take a break from your studying and learn to crochet with wire! Sound impossible? Not when you take an instructional class at Spark Craft Studio (1963 Massachusetts Avenue Porter Square, Cambridge MA). Make a matching beaded and crocheted necklace and bracelet which make a unique holiday gift for yourself or someone special. The class begins at 6:30p.m. For more information and prices, log on to http://www.sparkcrafts.com.

Come see Seriously Bent in their last show of the semester! Head over to the Improv Asylum (Hanover Street in the North End) tonight at 10p.m.
Rams tennis and soccer excel in fall season

Ben Paulin, Journal Staff

The week ending down and having seen Christmas advertisements on TV since the beginning of November, Suffolk's fall sports season seemed to have flown by.

The Women's Tennis season certainly did as they run away from the competition going undefeated on the year. Men's soccer posted another winning record, while Women's soccer played their inaugural season as a varsity squad.

Jim Nelson, Suffolk's Athletic Director, had some wholehearted words for all of the fall teams and some of the graduating seniors as well.

Women's tennis had a perfect season going 14-0. In the process, the Lady Rams won the GNAC Championship and punched their tickets to the NCAA Division III tournament, which will be held in the Spring.

"Certainly I'm enormously pleased with the unprecedented success of the women's tennis team. It is a tribute to their determined play and to the dedication of our coaching staff and head coach Steve Coulthard" said Nelson.

The Men's Soccer (9-7) team beat Albertus Magnus College to advance to the GNAC tournament semifinals, before losing to Norwich. Nelson praised the club saying "the men's soccer team is to be congratulated on a sixth consecutive winning season under head coach Nick Papapoulos.

"I especially wish to provide my appreciation for the leadership of our seniors: Marzouco Panza, Dan Pereira and Christian Palacios. Their commitment to this program was instrumental in our team advancing to the semi-finals in the conference playoffs" Nelson said about the men's soccer seniors.

"Men's and Women's Cross Country competed in a host of invitational through the fall season" said Nelson "Cole Dillon and Will Feldman for the men and senior Heather Locust: we are especially appreciative for their leadership and commitment throughout the fall." Cross Country competed in the GNAC championship, the ECAC New England Championships, and NCAA New England Regional meets.

Women's Soccer (2-11) struggled in their first season as a varsity squad but the team looked to have gained some steam winning two of their last four games. "Women's Varsity soccer was successful in two of their matches throughout the season" Nelson said. With only one senior, Tommas Salach graduating in the spring, Suffolk looks to the future with head coach Ernst Cleopkat under the helm.

Women's Volleyball (3-19), might have undermined, but they didn't lack excitability or the desire to compete. "Although (they did) not achieve their goal in qualifying for their conference playoffs, none the less, they provided excitement throughout the year. We salute our four players, Noel Moran and Kristen Conrad.

Men's Golf competed in the New England Intercollision Golf Championship, the GNAC Championship and the ECAC New England Golf Championship.

"Men's Golf once again benefited from the expertise of head coach Ed McMillen. Not having a senior on this year's team averages well for the spring and fall in 2008" Nelson said.

Certainly all of the teams will be trying to duplicate what the Women's Tennis team was able to accomplish this year, next season. Hopefully Women's Soccer will build off of their last-season victories, while the Men's squad will look to continue their winning ways. Cross Country and Men's Golf are competing in championship tournaments and all teams will undoubtedly continue their good play. Women's Volleyball can only improve from their disappointing season, as is the hope of all of Suffolk's fall teams, even the undefeated one.

Coming next semester:

Exclusive Beanpot coverage and all your favorite Suffolk sports. 

Daniel Ryan, Journal Staff

The Suffolk Rams Men's basketball team opened this season's slate of home games with an exciting win, a 78-70 victory this past Thursday over the Beacons of UMass Boston. The Rams (1-4) had lost four straight to start the season, but managed to hustle, outplay and simply outwork a perennially tough Beacons team.

The Beacons jumped out to an early lead with some sharp shooting and overall great play by sophomore Terrell Maddox, and had a six point lead at 13-7 five minutes into the game. However, the Rams didn't let the Beacons build much of a lead, and took their first lead of the game at 16-15 just four minutes later on a three-pointer from sophomore Joseph Ransom.

The teams traded baskets over the next few minutes, with neither team able to make a defensive stop. Suffolk sophomores Josh Teixeira would change the momentum of the game with 7:55 left in the first half. Teixeira took a charge down on the right block with the Rams trailing by one, forcing a Beacons turnover.

On the next possession, freshman Allan Ray knocked down a jump shot, giving the Rams the lead at 24-23.

However, the Rams weren't done yet. Junior Jonathan Currier nailed a three point-er on the Rams' next possession, giving his team a 26-23 lead. Feeling the momentum beginning to shift, the Rams went on a 9-2 run over the next 3:30, led by the sharp shooting of Ray and Currier. The Rams had a ten point lead at 35-25 with 3:45 left in the first frame.

The Beacons out the lead to six at 35-29, but sophomore Alan Jaziri iced knocked down a three point, effectively killing any momentum UMass was building. The Rams took a 40-31 lead into the locker room at half time after a fast paced, high-energy and sometimes frantic opening period.

Half time featured a running performance from Suffolk's Step Squad, as well as the giveaway of 2 tickets to an upcoming Celtics game. These events were part of Spirit Night, sponsored by the Office of Retention Services, the Off-Campus Housing Office, the Student Activities office, and the Athletics department. Rams at the game were also treated to noisemakers, as well as free refreshments.

Building off of their strong finish to the first half, the Rams came out with tons of energy and great pressure, preventing the Beacons from inbounding the ball to start the half, forcing an early time out. Suffolk kept up their sharp shooting, taking a 46-35 lead after a basket by Jaziri with 15:10 left. However, the Beacons refused go down without a fight, and went on a run of their own. The Beacons went on a 10-2 run over a period of 2:00 and were able to get as close as four points at 54-50. However, just as they had in the first half, the Beacons got themselves into foul trouble as they went over the limit with just under 10 minutes to go in the half. This sent Jaziri to the line, where he promptly drilled both free throws.

Suffolk's lead was extended to 56-50, and six points was as close as the Beacons would get the rest of the way.

The Rams mounted a few more charges, but were stifled by this hard-working Rams group. At one point, the Rams were tenaciously holding a 6 point lead, and had just missed two straight free throws.

However, Teixeira outbushed UMass, grabbed an offensive rebound, and put it back up for two points, essentially cementing the win for the Rams. Solid free throw shooting over the final minute really put the game away, giving the Rams their first win of the season, 78-70.

Jaziri went 10 for 10 from the free throw line, while netting 36 points. Ransom chipped in with seven points and six assists, while junior Brian Small had seven points, seven rebounds and three blocks.

After the win, head coach Adam Nelson praised his team's preparation for this game, saying "Our guys really seemed to understand the scouting report, and what we needed to do to win. Some of our keys were to pressure the ball, stay in front of the post, and have great help-side defense inside. We did those things for the last few days in practice, and it definitely carried over into the game."

Nelson also was proud of his team's overall all hustle. "We talk to our guys all the time about playing hard and out working opponents" Nelson said. "Our practices are hard - our guys fight and scrap for 2 hours every day. Going out there on gameday and working 40 minutes is something that we expect, not something that we hope for."
Point: More often than not it’s #1 v. #2

Tim Rosenthal
Journal Staff

Sure, there are flaws in the BCS system. But arguably it has worked in almost every year since the system has been in place. Now I know there is an argument for a playoff, especially with this year’s mess in college football. Are there any teams more worthy than LSU and Ohio State however? Kansas, Missouri and West Virginia had their chances, but it crumbled the last day of the year. Two of those three teams are in the BCS, but Missouri isn’t because they did not win their conference. At least Kansas was 11-1.

The first year that the system was in place was the 1998 season. True, there might have been a little controversy between those Buckeyes, who were pre-season number one until losing to Michigan State who finished 6-6 and did not make a bowl, and Florida State, who wound up in between those Buckeyes, who were pre-season number one until losing to Michigan State who finished 6-6 and did not make a bowl, and Auburn, who had a weak schedule. The format worked and although Auburn won its bowl game, how would they have fared against Reggie Bush, Matt Leinart, Mike Williams and the rest of the Trojans. It would have been unfair to either Oklahoma or Auburn. Nevertheless, the point is the system works; Oklahoma defeated such teams as Texas, Oklahoma State and Texas A&M all of whom were ranked in the top 25 by season scores.

Let’s go one year later to 2005, the greatest National Championship game ever played between two unbeaten, USC and Texas. There might be an as what if? Actually there wouldn’t have been because those were the two best teams, even if Texas did not win the Big XII, I still would’ve taken them over a two loss Georgia team. In 2006, again the system was right, Ohio State was undefeated, so they faced Florida, who won their conference and went 12-1, went to the first ever BCS title game in Glendale. Some say Florida didn’t belong, and Michigan did. The results, Michigan lost to USC and Florida went on to annihilate Ohio State en route to their second National Title. It wouldn’t have worked out if Ohio State had to play Michigan again. That took have been boring.

The argument that a playoff needs to be in place would mean disaster for the current system. Fact that the matter is this, it would mean less money for the schools if they are indeed one and out. What system would you use anyway? Twelve teams? Sixteen teams? Where would those games be? I couldn’t imagine seeing Ilinois after Christian, if they indeed have home field advantage. If the game is in a neutral site, then where would those games be? You can’t let teams keep traveling from Fiesta Bowl to Orange Bowl to Rose Bowl to Sugar Bowl and then arguably have a BCS Title Game in those same locations, wherever the game may be in those years.

Let’s face it, without the BCS we wouldn’t have had great "mid-major" moments either. In 2004, Utah beat Pittsburgh and marked the first time a team from the "mid-level" conferences [i.e. Mountain West and Western Athletic Conference] went, and not only did Utah win, they were convincingly. Last year who could forget the Boise State miracle against Oklahoma? This year, add undefeated Hawaii to the mix as they will travel 4,000-plus miles to face Georgia in New Orleans in the Sugar Bowl. All of this wouldn’t happen if there was a playoff.

Tim, the system has worked in basketball, but there are over 300 teams in that sport. There are 119 in college football, and to put a playoff system would not be rewarding of many teams. One current system is working, and two years don’t really make a difference anyway. If it is working, then keep it.

Counterpoint: Computers can’t match March Madness

Daniel Ryan
Journal Staff

Through the past few years, the BCS system has been analyzed, scrutinized, examined and dissected more often than Terry Francona’s pitching changes. No one is perfectly happy with the system, yet no one seems to be able to come up with a way to fix it that will satisfy everyone.

Honestly, the BCS seems to have gotten it right the past few years. Perhaps the process is coming around, but it’s really only a matter of time before another controversy such as Miami, Washington and Florida State in 2000 or Oklahoma, LSU and USC in 2003. There are literally dozens of teams deserving a shot at the title in college football each year, but all but two of them are left on the cold, trying to get their games up to play in the Insight Bowl presented by Nike sponsored by Burger King.

The BCS was put in place to give the two most deserving teams a shot at the title, but it seems like a NCAA Basketball style tournament would probably be even more popular. Hold it in January, and have all schools be done with their seasons by the second week in December. What about those schools that don’t make the tournament? Better luck next year, kids. Or, if the NCAA gets ambitious, hold an NIT style football tournament for those teams. The possibilities are endless.

So what are the arguments against such a system? Some say that there aren’t enough sites. There are hundreds of football stadiums in this country, and plenty would be willing to take in the extra money that would come with hosting a BCS Football Playoff game. It’s likely that these games would be so popular that they could fill NFL stadiums to capacity.

The other main argument against this system is the elimination of the other bowls. Since all of these bowls are usually sponsored by multiple companies, the NCAA would lose a lot of money by consolidating the bowls into a playoff. However, there is another simple solution to this issue; let the companies sponsor a round. Much like the “East Regional Quarterfinals” in basketball, let the football tournament have the “Burger King East Quarterfinals”. Sure, it sounds stupid, but does it sound any worse than the “Burger King Whopper Bowl”? If the NCAA’s main issue is sponsorship, then this solution clears the last hurdle.

Let the playoffs begin, and let there be a legitimate champion in college football for once. Who wouldn’t want to see LSU play Arkansas again, especially after the Razorbacks thrilling overtime victory a few weeks back? Or what about Boise State and Oklahoma, which was arguably the greatest football game ever?

Yes, games like this would be commonplace in the BCS Tournament, hopefully coming to a city near you in January 2009.
defensemen Colby Cohen took offense to Eagle senior Mike Brennan's hooking penalty and showed his exasperation by getting in the face and jostling BC's Matt Price after the whistle.

The Eagles stayed on the offensive for the entire game but BU put up a strong front. The Terriers got their second and final goal of the game with 9:17 in the third on a power play goal by Pete MacArthur.

Goaltender John Muse shut down B.U.'s offense with 33 saves on the night.

York was pleased with his team's effort after winning their first and only game in the month of November. "We started very very quick which certainly helped us" said York, "I thought our team played much more structured tonight than we have early this season."

Gerbe, who scored three goals in the game, said, "Obviously it's good to get a win, that's always our main focus going into each game but were just looking to get back on track and starting to play our game and get our team's confidence back."

Parker was less affable when speaking to the media for a total of 35 seconds "I don't have anything good to say about anybody, on my team, I thought B.C. played real well" Parker said in curt fashion.

In the last 10 meetings, The Eagles are 6-4 and 11-9 in the last 20.

- Ben Smith and Nathan Gerbe each had four goals
- With Smith's power play goal in the third period on Saturday, the Eagles have now scored in 11 straight games when having the man advantage.
- There were three replays in Saturday's game
- BU freshman Colin Wilson had three assists in the two games.

- The Terriers are now 120-105-15 in the 240 meetings.

TO DO:
- Get into Wu-Tang show for free
- interview RZA
- make an ass out of self while posing with RZA
- write about it in The Journal

Though BC swept BU in the series, there are still two more games, including the first round Beanpot, which is after all known as the "BU Invitational" because of the dominance of BU in the tournament. After all they have won 28 Beanpot's in the 55 year history of the tournament.

"It's a long season," said York. "Things happen."

The next meeting between the two teams will be on January 19th when the 241st meeting between these traditional powerhouses takes place in BC's Conte Forum. One would imagine Jack Parker's squad will be out to send a message before the Beanpot, while the Eagles will look to continue their win streak against their rivals which is currently at three.
Eagles roll over Terriers in 6-2 home victory

Ben Paulin
Journal Staff

Friday night, Boston's biggest inner-city rivalry got under way for the 239th meeting between the Boston College and Boston University hockey teams. BC took control of the game almost immediately with junior Nathan Gerbe leading the way with a hat trick while handing the Terriers their eighth loss of the season in a 6-2 rout.

"All parts of the game were better tonight," said BC head coach Jerry York. "We worked really hard and were physical and we were smart. Sometimes we've been smart and not very physical and sometimes we've been physical and not very smart. I think it was kind of a good medium tonight."

The Eagles jumped out to a big lead early scoring three goals in 2:17 in the first period, including a short handed goal by Gerbe, his second of the game at 7:27. "It's pathetic how we just stood back on our... rear ends and watched them come at us" said BU head coach Jack Parker.

BC got one goal back in the first on Brandon Yip's power play goal at the 12:09 mark of the opening period. The second period was very physical as BU tried to muscle their way back into the game. But for BC, the puck kept bouncing off their rival. One of the penalties was a rare ten minute major, misconduct by Gillespie against Gillespie in the first four minutes of the game. "Luckily tonight I got a couple of bounces in, which is real good to get the confidence back" said Gerbe.

The players continued hazing each other turning the third period into a grudge match, adding 11 penalties in the third set; each team taking any shot they could get to body their rival. One of the penalties was a rare ten minute major, misconduct by Gillespie who sat in the penalty box for the remainder of the game. BU goalie Brett Bennett returned to the game replacing Gillespie. More bad blood boiled over when BU coach Jack Parker decided to pull Brett Bennett at the beginning of the third period putting senior Karson Gillreane back on his game tonight. "I thought he was quick and dynamic" said York.

BC got their first power play goal of the game on Andrew Orpik's wrist shot from just outside of the circle, making the score 5-1 by the end of the second period.

Hoping to stop some of the bleeding, BU pulled goalie Brett Bennett at the beginning of the third period putting senior Karson Gillreane back between the pipes. However, Gillespie's night in goal was short lived. Nathan Gerbe scored his third goal (second short handed) of the game against Gillespie in the first four minutes of the final period. "Luckily tonight I got a couple of bounces in, which is real good to get the confidence back" said Gerbe.

BU's Joe Perieira and BC's Nick Petrucki tangle along the boards in BCs friday night 6-2 rout of the Terriers at Conte Forum

Eagles complete sweep of cross town rivals

Tim Rosenthal
Journal Staff

The game between the Boston College Eagles and the Boston University Terriers on Saturday night was unlike Friday's game. BU had every opportunity to oust their rivals from Commonwealth Avenue, but in the end, they were left disappointed as the Terriers lost 4-3.

"It was very pleased with the effort tonight," said legendary Terrier coach Jack Parker, who has often been befuddled by the team's performance this year. "We played hard, generated some offense, killed some penalties and had a good weekend on our power play."

The only offense for BU came on the power play. This weekend the Terriers were 5-10 when having the man advantage.

"We had difficulty handling BU's powerplay," said BC head coach Jerry York. "That's not a lack of execution on our part, but they really handle the puck well and make great plays."

"Our best preventive part was trying to take less penalties. Late in the game we were fortunate in that regard."

Part of the preventive on the penalty kill was Nathan Gerbe, who had three short handed goals in the series, two on Friday and one on Saturday. "He is really a dynamic hockey player," York said about Gerbe. "When asked what makes Gerbe dangerous on the penalty kill, York said 'He anticipates real well and he is quick.'"

Although BU did not play well when even strength, Parker was still pleased with the teams' attempt to come back after a 6-2 let-back the night before. "We played hard and smart," Parker said. "We were winners at heart."

The second night the Terriers out shot the Eagles 44-25 and had many scoring chances. However, on the other side, Eagle freshman goaltender John Muse was stellar, stopping 41 BU shots. "It is always better when you win, everybody's happy" Muse emphasized.

To describe how close this series usually is, York said "Whenever we play BU over the last number of years it seems like it comes down to someone pulling a goaltender. That's exactly what happened with 1:30 left in the game when Parker decided to pull Brett Bennett for the extra man. "One of us are pulling the goalie in the end usually and trying to send it to overtime."

Ben Smith, who recorded his first collegiate hat trick in the game. One team won and the other lost. That was a significant part of the game, (the score) goes to 4-2 if he doesn't make that save, so I was very good about his play in goal and Nathan was back on his game tonight. I thought he was quick and dynamic" said York.

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